



General Assembly

***Substitute Bill No. 5902***

*February Session, 2008*

\* \_\_\_\_\_ HB05902PH \_\_\_\_\_ 031708 \_\_\_\_\_ \*

***AN ACT CONCERNING HOSPITAL STAFFING.***

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1       Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2008*) (a) For purposes of this  
2       section:

3       (1) "Department" means the Department of Public Health; and

4       (2) "Hospital" means an establishment for the lodging, care and  
5       treatment of persons suffering from disease or other abnormal physical  
6       or mental conditions and includes inpatient psychiatric services in  
7       general hospitals.

8       (b) On and after July 1, 2009, each hospital licensed by the  
9       department pursuant to chapter 368v of the general statutes shall, as a  
10      condition of continued licensure, submit to the department a  
11      prospective nurse staffing plan with a written certification that the  
12      nurse staffing plan is sufficient to provide adequate and appropriate  
13      delivery of health care services to patients in the ensuing period of  
14      licensure. Such plan shall promote a collaborative practice in the  
15      hospital that enhances patient care and the level of services provided  
16      by nurses and other members of the hospital's patient care team.

17      (c) Each hospital shall establish a hospital staffing committee to  
18      assist in the preparation of the nurse staffing plan required pursuant to

19 subsection (b) of this section. Registered nurses employed by the  
 20 hospital to provide direct patient care shall account for not less than  
 21 fifty per cent of the membership of each hospital's staffing committee.  
 22 Each hospital, in collaboration with its staffing committee, shall  
 23 develop and implement the prospective nurse staffing plan. Such plan  
 24 shall: (1) Include the minimum professional skill mix for each patient  
 25 care unit in the hospital, including, but not limited to, inpatient  
 26 services, critical care and the emergency department; (2) identify the  
 27 hospital's employment practices concerning the use of temporary and  
 28 traveling nurses; (3) set forth the level of administrative staffing in  
 29 each patient care unit of the hospital that ensures direct care staff are  
 30 not utilized for administrative functions; (4) set forth the hospital's  
 31 process for internal review of the nurse staffing plan; (5) identify  
 32 collective bargaining agreements that the hospital is a party to and  
 33 certify the hospital's compliance with such agreements; and (6) include  
 34 the hospital's mechanism of obtaining input from direct care staff,  
 35 including nurses and other members of the hospital's patient care  
 36 team, in the development of a nurse staffing plan.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:

Section 1	October 1, 2008	New section
-----------	-----------------	-------------

**PH**      *Joint Favorable Subst.*